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ONE SECTION, 12 PAGES

\$1

Number of COVID-19 cases in MS climbs to 937; 16 in Hancock County



Photo by Geoff Belcher | Sea Coast Echo
Dr. Dimitry Yanez and the staff of Hancock Women's Center are conducting an outdoor ambulatory COVID-19 testing and treatment clinic. Yanez said Tuesday he hopes other Hancock County-area doctors begin doing the same in order to help reduce the number of patients that will be crowding into hospital emergency rooms.

BY GEOFF BELCHER
GENERAL MANAGER

The Mississippi State Department of Health on Tuesday morning reported 90 new cases of COVID-19 in the state, with one new case reported in Hancock County.

"Four new deaths have also been confirmed, in Bolivar, Lafayette, Montgomery and Panola counties," according to an MSDH statement. "Tishomingo County is reporting its first coronavirus case."

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In Concert: Social Distance Style



Photos by Cassandra Favre | Sea Coast Echo
Prior to COVID-19 restrictions being put in place at Dunbar Village, Courtney Burke and her brother, Kevin O'Keefe, used to perform every Wednesday for the elders. On Monday, the elders heard their music again, thanks to an outdoor concert, social distance style. The are under strict quarantine guidelines and not allowed visitors at this time. Dunbar Village has implemented Sharing Love Through a Window in order for residents to visit with family and friends safely.

A Guiding Sleight of Hand



A MONTHLY FEATURE IN THE SEA COAST ECHO

BY BILL CURRIE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Brother Lee Barker passed away on March 26th. It was my great pleasure to spend time reminiscing with Brother Lee recently and writing his Gem article before he passed. While the recognition of Brother Lee as a Gem is well-deserved, earthly rewards were never the pursuit of this Brother of the Sacred Heart, rather, he lived a life based on the promise of rewards

"out of this world."

Drive by St. Stanislaus on South Beach Blvd and your eye is attracted to the modern building flanked by shuttered historic brick buildings. For those who don't remember the original front building of St. Stanislaus, a photograph of the building can be found online at the Hancock County Historical Society website.

The 1903 architecture exudes the heart of the place; dignified, solid, and serious. Then, imagine

the faculty moving through the building - stoic Brothers of the Sacred Heart dressed in ankle-length black cassocks, also dignified, solid, and serious. It was a place to learn academics, boundaries, and, most importantly, character. The eyes of the brothers seemed to be always watching, precursors to today's omnipresent security cameras. After committing even a minor infraction in the school yard, one's heart would stop upon finding a brother mere feet behind glaring down at you. Some glares were more heart-stopping than others and this month's Gem had a long stern face that put the fear of, well, it put the fear of Brother Lee in you.



Br. Lee Barker

My fifth grade memory of Brother Lee Barker from 1968 and the Brother Lee of today could not be any more different. The disciplinarian who instilled fear in young students has become the beloved magi-

cian spreading smiles on people of all ages. Just as magical as his tricks, his narration of his journey through life evokes a magical mystique of

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School’s Out, but BWSD teachers want students to know that they still care



Photo courtesy of Devin Dorn
From back left, NBE staff Lindsay Adam, Devin Dorn and Magan Russell visit one of their students, Reese Genna.

BY CASSANDRA FAVRE
STAFF WRITER

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” — Leo Buscaglia

Students throughout the state are adjusting to completing their school work at home after Gov. Tate Reeves, in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, ordered that all public schools close until April 17.

Students who attend the Bay-Waveland School District have been out of school since March 13.

On Saturday, March 21, teachers from North Bay Elementary took to the streets to surprise their students.

“When I woke up Saturday morning, I had a text message from Magan Russell asking what I had planned for the day,” NBE 5th grade teacher Devin Dorn said. “I told her we hadn’t made any plans, so

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A man in a plaid shirt and a young boy in a plaid shirt are planting a small tree in a park. The man is kneeling and holding the tree, while the boy stands next to him. A wheelbarrow and a shovel are nearby. The background shows a lush green park with trees and a path.

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We look forward to welcoming you back soon.

An aerial view of the Silver Slipper Casino Hotel, showing the large building, a swimming pool, and surrounding landscaping with palm trees and a parking lot.

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Parents pick up educational packets



Parents on Monday line up at North Bay Elementary School in Bay St. Louis to pick up educational packets for their children. Although all Mississippi public schools are closed through April 17 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bay-Waveland School District began “distance learning” for the children this week.

Hancock Supervisors approve “hazard” pay for essential employees working during COVID-19 pandemic

BY CASSANDRA FAVRE
STAFF WRITER

The Hancock County Board of Supervisors on Thursday approved additional compensation for essential county employees required to be at work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

County Administrator Eddie Favre said that the proposal was originally submitted by the sheriff for his hourly employees

to receive “hazard pay.” “What we’d like to do is extend to where it covers all hourly employees, regardless of what department they’re in, that are in a position of having to absolutely work extra,” Favre said. “Or having to work and not being able to go home.” Favre said some employees that cannot go home include: Those that work in the court department; dispatchers, Emergency Management Agency personnel; IT

employees; and some administrative employees. Favre’s proposal stated that these employees would receive time-and-a-half pay per hour they work during the COVID-19 pandemic, since many of them are still dealing with the public face-to-face. The board approved the pay adjustment, which includes the sheriff’s office and all county employees who are still required to be at work, effective immediately,

from March 24 (being the day the county sent its non-essential employees home) to March 28 and the next pay period March 29 through April 11. Each department head will make the determination, the motion states. The board also approved hazard pay for salaried employees who are putting in more than 40 hours per week. This does not include salary for elected officials, which is set by statute.

Salaried employees will be paid time-and-a-half for overtime with a cap of 120 hours per pay period, effective immediately from March 24 (being the day the county sent its non-essential employees home) to March 28 and the next pay period March 29 through April 11.

Favre said that the estimated extra cost per pay period will be about \$110,000 for the hourly employees and \$25,000 for the salaried employees. The board will reevaluate the matter at each pay period.

County and cities reiterate COVID-19 restrictions

BY CASSANDRA FAVRE
STAFF WRITER

The Hancock County Board of Supervisors on Monday released a statement reiterating the county’s and cities’ restrictions put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 21, the county, along with the cities of Bay St. Louis, Diamondhead, and Waveland, each adopted resolutions restricting access to their public facilities, prohibiting gatherings of more than 10 people, limiting gatherings of 10 people or less, and mak-

ing restaurants and bars open only for pick-up and delivery throughout the county. “The purpose of this press release is to reiterate those restrictions and to make certain that the public understands that all of those restrictions — including without limitation the prohibiting of gathering of groups of more than 10 people, and the limitations on gatherings of 10 or less people — apply to all beaches of Hancock County,” Board President Scotty Adam said in the release. “Please abide by those prohibitions and limitations on the beaches of Hancock County as we all work to

further protect the public from the threat form Coronavirus 19. Hancock County will be posting signs on the beaches of Hancock County this week to provide additional notice of these restrictions.” Adam on Tuesday also provided clarification to Gov. Tate Reeve’s recent Executive Order No. 1463 and supplemental order. Both can be viewed in entirety at www.sos.ms.gov. Adam said that local counties and cities can go more stringent, but cannot relax what is stated in the governor’s order, which is the “minimum order.”

• COVID-19 Continued from Page 1

The state total of cases now stands at 937, with 20 deaths. Three adults under the age of 50 have died.” Hancock County’s total of COVID-19 cases as of Tuesday’s announcement was 16, with one death. Harrison County also reported one new case, for a total of 45 with one death; and three new cases were reported in Pearl River County, bringing the total there to 30 cases, still with zero deaths. The cases were identified by testing from the MSDH Public Health Laboratory and private testing providers. “We’re anticipating a high demand going through April 15,” Dr. Dimitri Yanez of Hancock Women’s Center, said Tuesday. Yanez said he and the clinic staff have offered an ambulatory testing and treatment center for the past three weeks, and he hopes other Hancock County-area physicians will follow suit. “I’d be happy to help them,” he said. By both testing patients and treating their symptoms, the

overall effect will be to help people who test positive for the virus recover more quickly and keep from over-taxing the hospital’s facilities. “This type of ambulatory clinic will reduce the number of patients going to the emergency room,” he said. “This virus is very subtle,” Yanez said. “It starts with a kind of wet quality to the voice, and then moves on to a sore throat and a shortness of breath. ... Then there is a persistent cough. ... The fever is usually low-grade, sometimes higher. Many patients have also experienced mild diarrhea. “It starts in the nasal passages, then moves to the lower right lung, then over to the left lung,” and from there to the colon, liver and kidneys. Patients have been responding well to hydroxychloroquine and Z-packs, he said, and “Mid-Town Pharmacy deserves a big shout-out” for being proactive and working closely with medical professionals to keep enough supplies on hand and make sure the patients are properly directed, Yanez said. There are now three COVID-19 testing sites open in Hancock County. • Hancock Women’s Center, 1009 Benig-

no Lane, Bay St. Louis. Walk-ins are welcome, both male and female, with results in 36-14 hours. Open Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Friday, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. For more, please call 228-467-2555 or go to www.hancockwomen-center.com. • Memorial Drinkwater Internal Medicine Walk-In Clinic, 300 Drinkwater Drive, Bay St. Louis, Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sat & Sun 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. • Memorial Hancock Family Practice, 4433 Leisure Time Drive, Diamondhead, Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sat & Sun 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Residents are asked to call the Memorial before coming in for possible testing as procedures will differ from site to site. A fever of 100.4 AND severe cough or chest pain is required to receive testing. Please call the Memorial Physician Clinic COVID-19 HOTLINE at (228) 867-5000 extended to 7 days a week, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. to speak with clinical staff dedicated to answering COVID-19 health related questions, to receive guidance, or additional instructions if you are experiencing symptoms related to

COVID-19. A recorded message with relevant, commonly asked questions, will be available after 8 p.m. Call (228) 867-5000 before visiting a clinic to allow the staff to determine the next steps and to prepare for your arrival. More details of COVID-19 in the state, along with preventive steps to take against coronavirus, are online at <http://HealthyMS.com/covid-19>.

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Facebook group making masks for healthcare workers



BY GEOFF BELCHER
GENERAL MANAGER

A local group is working to use its sewing skills to mass-produce homemade surgical masks in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I’m on bended knee here, trying to get people to help,” Rhonda Aime Gamble — founder of the Facebook group Mask Response — said Tuesday.

Currently, the group has 48 members, but if you can sew, you’re welcome to join.

“I’m making masks for (King’s Kitchen) right now,” Gamble said. “I took care of the food pantry this morning — we supplied them with masks and we’ve been doing masks for Dunbar Village. At the nursing home, we’ve been trying to take care of staff first, and then make enough so the staff can provide masks to the residents.

“We’re trying to cover it all, but we can’t make them fast enough. We need anyone who can sew. They don’t need a lot, just some scrap materials. They need elastic and some twist ties.

“Elastic is very difficult to find right now because everybody is making them, so we improvised and bought some elastic head bands from Dollar Tree and Walmart. I ordered a 300-yard roll, but it hasn’t arrived yet.”

Gamble asked that anyone interested in helping join the Facebook group, “so that way we can coordinate through there. We have instructions on there on how to make them. We have instructional videos, and we’re doing another one ... to try to help make it a little easier for them.”

Currently, the group has 48 members, but is looking to grow.

“Everybody’s wanting them,” Gamble said. “I’ve had a couple of other ladies helping, but they work and their time is limited.”

Gamble said the masks are free to those who need them.

“We’re not charging anybody for these masks,” she said. “These masks are free, and we’re giving them out to people who deal with the public first. We’re trying to prioritize who gets them. If they need masks, they can send a private message to Mask Response, but if they sew and they’re willing to help make them, then they need to actually join Mask Response. We’re trying to keep that page only for the people who are actually manufacturing.”

For more, go to facebook.com/Mask Response, or click here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/197208054907199/>

• TEACHERS

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from Page 1

she said get dressed we were going to see our students. I couldn’t get dressed fast enough.”

Russell said one of the things she misses most is “walking down the halls and into the classroom and seeing the smiling faces of all the kids’ faces at school.”

“We rode around in my car screaming ‘we miss you’ to as many as we could, simply to let them know that they are not alone in this battle,” Russell said. “We wanted them to know that we really do think about them. We really do care for them. For some, we are all they have, and they need to see our faces as often as possible. I love all of the students and want them to see me and remember me. They all need to know they have a friend for life in me.”

Once Russell picked up Dorn, the pair picked up fellow NBE colleague Lindsay Adam.

“We showed up honking the horn and waving our sign out of the window,” Dorn said. “Lindsay hopped in and we got started. We stopped by as many homes as we could.”

Adam said she didn’t “hesitate for one second.”

“I knew deep down that we needed to see them just as much as they needed to see us,” Adam said. “Even though school had only been out for a week, that was seven days of uncertainty for us all.”

The trio even surprised some of their colleagues with their “she-nanigans” and poster that read “We Miss You,” Adam said.

One of those colleagues was Stacey Ferguson, who said she was “elbow-deep in suds,



Photo courtesy of Devin Dorn
The teachers also visited Braylon Reynolds.

scrubbing the tub” when her husband told her that she had visitors. To her surprise, it was her colleagues from NBE.

“I was overwhelmed with emotions when I realized these teachers felt so strongly about their community that they took great effort to reach out and let their students and fellow teachers feel loved. It was day five of school closures and I was feeling lost and out of touch with everyone, but after that sweet visit, I knew we would get through this together; it rejuvenated my faith and hope in this bleak time of the unknown. The only other time I felt this way was after Katrina when those who could help did, without being asked.”

Ferguson said the teachers are on a “mission” to show that they can be counted on in times of hardship.

“Even though we are made to be physically distant, we are not alone,” she said. “COVID-19 will not win.”

Adam said that she hopes all of the students know that they are loved and missed.

“This situation isn’t ideal, but we have to make the best of it,” Adam said. “It’s always a great day to be a Tiger.”

One parent wrote on Facebook that her child has had some “rough moments this year with her anxiety, but she (Dorn) has been absolutely amazing with her and I am so grateful for everything she does on a daily basis. We love you, Mrs. Dorn! Thanks for loving my girl.”

Another parent commented on Facebook that the teachers’ drive-by made her daughter feel “so special.”

Dorn said the students “definitely enjoyed seeing us, but we enjoyed seeing them way more.”

Dorn said the teachers are looking forward to paying more visits to students.

BWSD Superintendent Dr. Sandra Reed said this is just “another indication that our great teachers miss their students.”

Dorn said that teaching is her passion and being away from her students is “heartbreaking.”

“My job goes way beyond just teaching,” Dorn said. “My daily goal is to ensure that all of my students are learning, but beyond that I want my students to know that they are cared for, loved, respected, and encouraged in all parts of their lives. If at any time they need me, they know I will be there.”

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Opinion

The Sea Coast Echo • Wednesday, April 1, 2020 • 5

Our “Normal”

What I wouldn’t give to write about something “normal” right now.

Our lives have become consumed with the COVID-19 pandemic.

As they should be. We are not out of the woods yet and should continue practicing social distancing.

However, when I looked around and saw how many people in our community are doing such good things, I realized that is normal for Hancock County.

Those of us who lived through Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath certainly know that helping one another is the way to go.

I’ll start with Linda Pitts, who runs the Hancock Retired and Senior Volunteer Program.

Since our senior citizen community was put on quarantine, she has tirelessly worked to ensure they have the things they need, despite the risks posed to her own health.

The senior hotline is 228-467-9073 and they ask that people leave their name, phone number, address, and what they might need.

Then there’s Arlene Johnson, the director of the Hancock County Senior Citizens Center, who, like Linda, does not broadcast all the good she does. They both just get out and do what needs to be done.

Since the center is now closed, Arlene and her staff have been cooking meals for the seniors to ensure they have a meal to eat every day.

King’s Kitchen soup kitchen is now open and serving meals-to-go and the Hancock County Food Pantry, which is volunteer-run, is also offering drive-thru services on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

The teachers from Bay-Waveland School District are driving in a parade to visit their students to let them know they care.

On Monday, I went to Dunbar Village to record a special performance. Every Wednesday, prior to COVID-19 restrictions, Courtney Burke and her brother Kevin O’Keefe performed for the elders.

Yesterday was the first time the elders got to listen to them once again, in concert social distance style.

The elders were placed the proper distance away from each other and the musicians. Some even listened and watched from an open window.

It was quite the emotional event to witness and I couldn’t stop my tears from falling.

Fun fact: Most reporters aren’t robots and do in fact care about their little communities.

While I remain committed to being an unbiased reporter and keeping to the facts, there are moments and events that touch my heart, as I’m sure they

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Staff Column
By Cassandra Favre

Wicker Details Federal Coronavirus Response New Measures Will Provide Relief to Families, Businesses, & Hospitals

Protecting public health during the coronavirus outbreak has required steps that were unimaginable only weeks ago. Businesses have shut their doors, children are staying home from school, churches have stopped gathering in-person, and nearly all public events have been canceled. Millions of Americans are working remotely, and many others are unable to work at all.

These extreme measures have been taken to stop the spread of the virus and save lives and are based on advice from health-care professionals. But they are also taking a toll on our economy and on the many hard-working individuals who now find themselves out of work and their savings threatened through no fault of their own. To save our

economy from collapse,



From the Senate
By Sen. Roger Wicker

Americans need immediate financial support.

This month I have worked with my Senate colleagues to negotiate and pass several pieces of legislation to get urgent relief into the hands of families, workers, and businesses in need. At the same time, we are sending needed resources to those dedi-

cated health-care workers who are on the front lines fighting this virus.

SWIFT BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION

In early March, Congress and the President moved swiftly to provide over \$8 billion to help medical workers, expand testing, and develop treatments and vaccines. Mississippi is already putting some of this money to use. As a result of this legislation, our state received a grant of \$5.8 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help fight the spread of COVID-19.

Then on March 18, the Senate passed additional support at the President’s request, requiring paid leave for workers who have contracted the coronavirus and for parents who are forced to miss work to care for their children.

The bill also provides free coronavirus testing for all Americans – including those who are uninsured.

Just days ago, the Senate unanimously passed a massive relief package to help workers and families in almost every segment of our society, including businesses, hospitals, and non-profits. The bill will provide checks of up to \$1,200 for low and middle-income individuals and up to \$2,400 for married couples and joint filers who meet certain salary requirements, with an additional \$500 for each child. This direct assistance was viewed as the fastest way to get money to people who need it without unnecessary red tape

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Now is the time to come together

The frenzy of the COVID-19 virus has caused panic and anxiety in many people in Waveland. I would be lying if I said I wasn’t feeling some anxiety due to health and financial consequences resulting from the virus. However, we must remain calm and all do our part in “flattening the curve.” Home is the best place for everyone to be.

Just a few weeks ago, many of us were angry that the Waveland Civic Association’s St. Patrick’s Day parade was canceled due to the emerging virus. In hindsight, cancelling the parade was the correct call by Mayor Mike Smith. Since that time it feels like a whirlwind. Waveland has had members of our community self-isolate, fall ill and unfortunately pass away because of the COVID-19 virus.

The City of Waveland has enacted social distancing practices to keep our community as healthy as possible. Waveland has closed public spaces, allowed

LETTER to the EDITOR

OUR LETTERS POLICY

The Sea Coast Echo welcomes comments from its readers. Letters must be signed and include address or telephone number. Letters should be brief, preferably typewritten and double-spaced. Only one letter per writer per month. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject letters. Letters of thanks, expression of appreciation, and political endorsements are inappropriate.

city personnel to telework, and have worked with many local businesses to help stop the spread of COVID-19 virus. All of this has taken place alongside the recommendations coming from both our federal and state governments.

I know this is a hit for small businesses and those who rely on these businesses. As a small business owner myself I have seen a slowdown for sure. Waveland will get through this. It is a bit inconvenient now,

but it is a whole lot better than becoming infected or infecting others.

The people who live in Waveland are parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, neighbors and friends.

We have lives intertwined throughout our community, and Waveland wants everyone to be alive, safe and healthy at the end of this pandemic. Everyone’s goal should be to prevent transmission of the COVID-19 virus, and as a result keep our com-

munity safe, healthy and hopefully back to normal activity soon.

I hear some people are upset because they believe this pandemic is being blown out of proportion.

Maybe Waveland is putting in too many safeguards in place, but what would happen if Waveland didn’t put any safeguards in place? Is being inconvenienced for a short time worth saving a life? To me it is, and I hope it is to you, also.

To all of you out there: this is the time for all of us to come together, become informed, and take swift and courageous action. As much as I would love to get back to work (and as much as my wife would love for me to get back to work), I’m going to enjoy every minute spending time at home with my wife and kids and continue ordering take-out from local restaurants until life returns to normal.

Sincerely,
Jeremy L Burke
Waveland Alderman
Ward 1

Arrest Record

The following is a list of arrests logged at the Hancock County Justice Facility from the past week. Appearance on the jail log is not indicative of guilt, merely a record that an arrest has been made.

ECHO STAFF REPORT

Dennis R. Mills, 45, receiving stolen property
Crockett L. Wood-

cock, 32, receiving stolen property
Adam K. Wane, 20, weapon deadly exhibiting in threatening or dangerous manner; simple assault
Keene R. Rauxet, Sr., 70, aggravated domestic violence
Angelo M. Russo, Jr., contempt of court violation of protective order, resisting/obstructing arrest, disorderly conduct,

hold for other agency
Derek J. Daughter, 39, simple domestic violence simple assault
Daniel A. Lightell, Jr., 39, resisting/obstructing arrest, disorderly conduct, contempt of court for failure to make restitution
Carrol A. Carter, 46, contempt failure to comply
Juliette M. Cuccia, 55, burglary

Jennifer J. Saucedo, 43, receiving stolen property x 2
Tyrone J. Saucedo, 47, receiving stolen property x 2
Kelly J. Maynard, Jr., 29, trespassing
Felix A. Molina, 25, simple domestic violence simple assault, probation violation
Terry Madison, 24, armed robbery
Kristy N. Renfro, 41,

disturbance of family indecent exposure abusive language
Ebonae L. Early, 27, disorderly conduct, resisting/obstructing arrest, speeding, no tag, contempt of court failure to appear
Brandon L. LaFrance, 27, simple domestic violence simple assault
Akeem R. McPherson, 24, contempt failure to appear x 2, no insur-

ance, careless driving, improper equipment, possession of marijuana (1-30 grams), no drivers license, no tag
Johnny L. Wyatt, Sr., 52, DUI first offense
Todd C. Savoy, Sr., 27, DUI first offense, simple domestic violence simple assault
Charles R. Bane, 39, burglary

Kiln man charged with attempted murder after shooting neighbor, a retired Navy vet

BY GEOFF BELCHER
GENERAL MANAGER

A Kiln man was charged with attempted murder on Monday evening after allegedly shooting another man in an apparent argument over an ATV.

Mark Dempsey Hoda, 57, was initially charged with aggravated assault, Chief Deputy Jeremy Skinner said in a press release Tuesday, but the charge was quickly amended.

“On March 30, just after 7 p.m., the Hancock County Sheriff’s Office responded to Road 372 in reference to a shooting with a single victim,” Skinner said. “Upon arrival to the scene, deputies found the victim laying on the ground with a single gunshot wound to the chest. Deputies administered life saving measures to the victim, as they awaited the arrival of emergency medical personnel.

“During these life saving measures, the victim was able to advise deputies as to who the



Mark Dempsey Hoda

shooter was. The victim was flown to an area hospital, where they are still currently being treated.”

Deputies were able to locate Hoda and take him into custody without incident, Skinner said. Hoda was also charged with being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

“It is believed an argument ensued between the victim and Hoda over the victim riding his all-terrain vehicle on the roadway,” Skinner said.

Family members on Tuesday identified the victim in the case as Brett L. Fletcher.

Fletcher is a “21-year U.S. Navy chief who never hurt a soul,” his wife Amy said on social

media. “He drove his four-wheeler between our house and a neighbor past this meth den and was shot point blank while me (his wife) and his five-year-old son were 400 yards away.”

Another relative said in a telephone interview Tuesday that Brett Fletcher was helping another neighbor move some wood and was riding his ATV back to his own home when the shooting occurred.

“He went to help his friend,” she said. “My sister in law and their five-year-old son were there helping

She believes the suspect shot Fletcher in retaliation for reporting a relative of his to the sheriff’s office for breaking into the Fletcher family home.

“The guy shot him in the stomach,” she said. “His intestines were injured, his spleen was removed, his colon and his diaphragm were damaged. This is a U.S. Navy veteran. He’s been to Iraq and Afghanistan and he helped rebuild Haiti,

and he’s never been hurt, but he’s not safe near his own home.”

Fletcher was air-lifted to a hospital in Hattiesburg, she said.

“Amy was able to go and see him this morning,” she said. “He opened his eyes a little. Right now he needs your prayers more than anything. He’s in ICU and can only be seen every few hours. She may not even be able to be with him during this terrible time because she’s not sure if the hospital is going to let her because of the COVID virus.

“His blood pressure is low today. They have his chest open because he’s going to have to have another surgery.

“This is a man you want your kids to grow up and be like and for this man to tell the cops it was an argument over an ATV is (wrong). This man is a hero to our country.”

The investigation is still ongoing, Skinner said.

100 percent of Coast Electric’s Operation Round Up funds to be used for energy assistance during Covid-19 crisis

SEA COAST ECHO

In an effort to assist those served by Coast Electric in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, the cooperative is making changes to the distribution of its Operation Round Up funds to bring immediate relief to those who need it most.

Operation Round Up is a program that rounds up the bills of participating Coast Electric members to the nearest dollar. Contributions are used to fund programs that improve the quality of life in

our communities. The program is designed to put 65 percent of donations into a community trust to fund grants for local charitable organizations and 10 percent is put into an endowment for future charitable giving. These funds are managed by the Gulf Coast Community Foundation. The remaining 25 percent of donations are used for residential energy assistance through the Share Your Blessings program managed by Catholic Charities of South Mississippi.

Coast Electric has made a decision to temporarily suspend future

funding of Operation Round Up grants so 100 percent of donations can be used for energy assistance for those who are experiencing financial hardships due to Covid-19. While energy assistance funds are usually only available for residential members, with more funds being allocated to energy assistance at this time, Coast Electric is making funds available to its commercial members who own businesses with 25 or fewer employees.

• See ASSISTANCE/
Page 10

• NORMAL
Continued
from Page 5

would yours.

There is a video on our Facebook page of the special concert.

In times like these, I find it best to focus on the various forms of community outreach going on at this time.

• WICKER
Continued
from Page 5

and bureaucracy.

As chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, I was one of the primary negotiators of this rescue package. My working group helped write provisions to provide emergency capital

for struggling employers, including airlines. This should help keep people on the payrolls. However, for those who have been laid off because of this crisis, the new law significantly increases unemployment benefits for the next four months.

PRESIDENT TRUMP TAKES ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

In addition to congressional action, Presi-

So, dear reader, if you know of anyone in Hancock County spreading some goodwill and community service, please don’t hesitate to contact us here at the office at 228-467-5473.

In the midst of times like these, I believe that good news sprinkled throughout the news of the reality our world is now, will help us all cope better during this difficult time.

Stay safe, healthy, and #stayhome.

Cassandra is a staff writer for the Sea Coast Echo and can be reached at cassandra@seacoastecho.com.

dent Donald Trump has used his authority to help. Facing an urgent shortage of medical supplies, the President invoked the Defense Production Act to increase the availability of needed resources. The President declared a national emergency to unlock up to \$50 billion in funds to help respond to the coronavirus pandemic. His administration has also

suspended interest payments on federal student loans and delayed the deadline to file federal taxes until July 15, 2020.

These measures are necessary to help our nation weather this crisis. However, no amount of federal action can solve this problem alone. We all need to do our part by following CDC guidance at <http://cdc.gov>.

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his innate sweetness and affectionate nature towards people and other dogs. He would be a wonderful family pet, or a fun companion for a single person or couple of any age. Of course, being a youngster, Jasper will require house and crate training, and a family devoted to spending quality time with him. Playtime, exercise, toys, sharing walks together, training and socialization all contribute to raising a healthy, happy adult dog. We want the best for this little guy. So, if you are able to meet the physical and emotional needs of a growing puppy, please visit Jasper at the Hancock County Animal Shelter, 7175 Texas Flat Rd, Kiln, MS. You are sure to fall in love with him. Call 228 466 4516 for more information, and visit our Facebook Page, Hancock County Animal Shelter, MS, to see more pictures of Jasper, and of the many other wonderful, adoptable animals looking for their forever homes.

Obituaries

AMES GRANT GOODING
MARY HALKIAS KAPETANAKIS
CAMERON KUNTZMAN
WILLIAM DANIEL “DANNY” SHEFFIELD
BETTY RUTH WATSON

JAMES GRANT GOODING

James Grant Gooding, 78, of Diamondhead, MS, passed away on March 22, 2020 surrounded by his wife, daughters and dog after a valiant battle with cancer. Grant was born in Henderson, NC to William Bartling Gooding and Pearl Elizabeth Grant Gooding. He graduated from the University of South Carolina and went on to serve in the United States Coast Guard from 1967 to 1970. He worked as a marine surveyor for the American Bureau of Shipping from 1970 until his retirement in 2006. He was married to Martha Helen Nash for 55 years and they have two children, Helen and Caroline. His children remember him as a loving father who encouraged them to pursue their goals. His grandchildren were captivated by his wide knowledge of all things. There was simply nothing Granddaddy could not do. His other love were his dogs, Maisie and George. Grant is preceded in death by his parents and his brother, William Bartling Gooding, Jr. He

is survived by his wife, Martha Nash Gooding; his two children, Helen (Gooding) Leupold and Caroline (Gooding) Pendergast; his son-in-law Chris Leupold, and his six grandchildren, Brooke Pendergast, Madeline Leupold, Claire Pendergast, Mary Leupold, Katie Pendergast and Joseph Leupold. The immediate family will lay him to rest March 28, 2020. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Diamondhead branch of the Hancock County Public Library System or Friends of the Animal Shelter in Hancock County. The family would like to thank all friends, family and neighbors for all the love and support. Edmond Fahey Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



MARY HALKIAS KAPETANAKIS

Our beloved mother and yiayia, Mary Halkias Kapetanakis, passed away in Gulfport, Mississippi, on Friday, March 27, 2020.



She will be laid to rest at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Norfolk, Virginia, next to her husband, Michael Kapetanakis. Mary was born in Aperi, Karpathos, Greece to George and Irene Halkias on February 10, 1926.

Besides her husband, she was predeceased by her older sister, Sophia Gergatsoulis and her beloved son-in-law, Dr. Allen Koskan.

Mary is survived by her three children, eight grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren as well as her younger sister, Venetia Logothetis of Wayside, New Jersey, and many beloved cousins, nieces, nephews and friends in the United States and Greece.

Mary and her husband Michael came to America in 1950 and resided in Detroit, Michigan. She and her family moved to Virginia Beach in 1958 and opened Neptunes Corner restaurant at the oceanfront on 31st street with her uncles.

In 1969, she and her husband operated the Plantation restaurant until her retirement in 1985.

She later moved back to Greece where she enjoyed gardening and loved to cook for her

children and grandchildren when they would visit her.

She treated everyone like family, and she was loved and respected by all. At the age of 86, she returned to the United States to reside with her daughter, Irene, where she spent her final days. Left to cherish her memory are her three children and several grandchildren. Her children include Dr. Irene Koskan of Gulfport, Mississippi, Rita Ninos and her husband John, and John Kapetanakis and his wife Suzanne.

The latter couples reside in Virginia Beach. Irene and Allen Koskan's children are Dr. Maria Venetis and Dr. Alexis Koskan. Maria is married to Peter Venetis, and they have two daughters, Irene and Sofia, and reside in Munster, Indiana. Alexis resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

Rita and John Ninos have three children: Maria, Faye and Anthony, all residing in Virginia Beach. Maria DaBiero and her husband Michael are the parents of Arianna and Niko. Faye Zinas married to Jim are the parents of Stel-

la, Rita, and Nicholas. John Kapetanakis and his wife, Suzanne, have twin daughters, Kendall and Kelly, and a son Michael. Kendall Ekholm and her husband Eric are the parents of Emma and reside in Richmond, Virginia. Kelly Grey and her husband, Casey, also reside in Richmond and are the parents of Orson. Michael Kapetanakis and his wife Shelley reside in Virginia Beach.

We wish to thank the staff of Memorial Hospital at Gulfport in Mississippi, Dunbar Village Assisted Living Facility in Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi, and Canon Hospice in Gulfport, Mississippi, for the excellent care they provided our mother in her final days.

We would also like to thank Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi, for facilitating final arrangements and H.D. Oliver Funeral Apartments in Virginia Beach for their assistance.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a private funeral with immediate family members only is planned for Thursday, April 2, 2020.

A more inclusive memorial service will be planned in the future. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church: 255 Beauvoir Road Biloxi, MS 39531. Edmond Fahey Funeral Home is in charge of local arrangements.



retiring from construction, Cameron used his skills learned from his love of gardening to work at Rouses in Diamondhead helping to keep their produce department in top notch condition.

Private family services were held.

CAMERON KUNTZMAN

Cameron W. Kuntzman of Diamondhead, MS, peacefully passed away March 9, 2020 at the age of 68. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sharon Schmitt Kuntzman and his parents Irwin and Thelma. Cameron was born in Taylorville, Illinois, grew up in Texas and finally settled on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

He was a master carpenter and helped to build and remodel many facilities here on the coast. After

WILLIAM DANIEL “DANNY” SHEFFIELD

William Daniel “Danny” Sheffield, 73, of Kiln, MS passed away Friday, March 20, 2020 in Kiln, MS.

Danny was a home-builder, a commercial fisherman and CEO of Coastal Pontoon Rentals in Kiln, MS. Danny was a wonderful and loving

father. His warm friendly nature endeared him to many and he will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife; Cheryl Sheffield; parents, Harvey L. and Melba Sheffield; and sister, Faye Davis.

He is survived by his two sons, Anthony Sheffield (Nicole) of Kiln and Jonathan Sheffield

of Waveland; two grandsons; one granddaughter and one great-grandson

Danny was laid to rest at the Biloxi National Cemetery on Friday, March 27, 2020. A Funeral Service with full Military Honors will be announced at a later date.

Edmond Fahey Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

BETTY RUTH WATSON

Betty Ruth (Johnson) Watson passed away on March 26, 2020 at the age of 89, after an extended illness, in Pearland Texas. Betty Ruth was born in Bay St Louis, MS and was a graduate of Bay High School, class of 1948. She was on the All State Basketball team in her senior year. Betty Ruth performed with her family's country, bluegrass band all over the south in her younger years. She married Delos E. Watson Sr. of Lady-



smith, WI on March 18, 1951. Betty Ruth was preceded in death by husband Delos E. Watson Sr. of Pearland TX, her parents Burton D. (Fip) Johnson and Rose (Maynard) Johnson, a brother, Burton

E. Johnson and two sisters, Norma (Johnson) Richardson and Carol (Johnson) Barrett, all of Bay St Louis, MS.

Betty Ruth is survived by four sons, Delos E. Watson, Jr. and wife Marina of Houston TX, Lauren D. Watson and wife Karen of McGregor TX, John M. Watson and wife Kathryn of Jennings LA, and Edward E. Watson of Pearland TX, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Due to the current restrictions, a memorial service will be planned for the future.

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One Palm Sunday...

The bedraggled men and equipment were a far cry from when two years earlier they had proudly and forcefully marched northward. Their general at that time had labeled them the finest fighting force ever to gather.

But after a bitter draw of battle and the withdrawal from enemy territory, it has been all down hill. There were fewer and fewer recruits to fill the places of the fallen. Rations became almost nonexistent.

The past 24 months had been spent mainly on the defensive, parrying here, attacking there, ever trying to keep the enemy off balance.

The bitter winter was finally drawing to a close, and two days before the coming of Palm Sunday the oaks in the forest were tasseling in rebirth. Short sprouts of grass were poking through the warming earth. At least the animals could have something to eat.

But the troops were in wretched condition. Those who still carried their muskets had hardly the appearance of soldiers as they wearily tramped along, their clothes all tattered and covered with mud, their eyes sunken and lusterless, and their faces pale and pinched from their ceaseless march.

On the morning of April 6, the wagons began to come in from foraging. One glance at them told the tale: they were almost empty. The farmers had scarcely anything to give or to sell.

The country had already been stripped of food and of provender. It was worse than a disappointment; it was a catastrophe. Often the loyal old army had been hungry, but now starvation seemed a stark reality.

As it was written: *"Many of the men who had thrown away their arms and knapsacks were lying prone on the ground along the roadside, too much exhausted to march farther, and only waiting for the enemy to come and pick them up as prisoners, while at short intervals there were wagons mired down, their teams of horses and mules lying in the mud, from which they had struggled to extricate themselves until complete exhaustion had forced them to be still and wait for death to glaze their widely staring eyes, and still their quick gasping and panting for the breath which could scarcely reach some of them through the mud*

that almost closed their nostrils; but through all this, part of the army still trudged on, with their faith still strong and only waiting for the general to say whether they were to face about and fight..."

But the general knew that fighting time was running out. His men were literally starving, and he knew that the chances of procuring food were slim. The enemy was close at hand and pursuing. Hopefully, the army could make it to a nearby railroad station where rations were supposed to be waiting. If they could make it to the station...if not, the end was near.

The general had summoned his staff for conference. Fight through, some suggested. Scatter the whole army like quail in the brush. Become small bands of resistance, others proposed.

"You and I as Christian men have no right to consider how this would affect us," he reasoned. "We must consider its effect on the country as a whole. Already it is demoralized by four years of war. If I took your advice, the men would be under no control of officers, they would be compelled to rob and steal in order to live...we would bring on a state of affairs it would take the country years to recover from."

The general pondered all the alternatives. Should he stake everything on one last assault, throw his men forward, like "The Old Guard" at Waterloo, and either win a crushing victory or die where the flags went down? No. There were homes to go to, land to till, children to feed. The men must live.

During April 6 and 7, the enemy pressed closer and closer. Each avenue of escape was closed. The men were exhausted. The unmentionable must be mentioned.

After he had listened to all reports, the general said: "There is nothing left for me to do but to go and see the opposing general, and I would rather die a thousand deaths." The end was here.

Restraint was broken under the weight of the tragedy. Officers spoke in grief of their hearts. "Oh, general, what will history say of the surrender of the army in the field?"

"Yes," the general answered simply, "I know they will say hard things of us; they will not understand how we were overwhelmed by numbers. But that is not the question,

colonel. The question is, is it right to surrender the army? If it is right, then I will take all of the responsibility."

During the night of April 8, the reflection of the campfires on the clouds and the mutter of moving men indicated that indeed the army was slowly being surrounded. It was only a matter of time.

Morning came, and some of the younger men stirred up the fire, and from a single tin cup, performed their toilet and ate a gruel of meal and water that each mixed and warmed over burning sticks.

The general dressed himself faultlessly, put on his handsomest sword and his sash of deep red silk, but he was not seen eating breakfast. If he was to be taken prisoner, then he wanted to make his best appearance, he thought.

The opposing general was very courteous and generous in his surrender terms. He had promised immediate rations for the desperate men.

There was one thing the general had requested. He asked for his men to take home their personal horses and mules. At first, the opposing general rejected the notion, but after some thought, he changed his mind.

"I take it that most of the men in the ranks are small farmers," the opposing general said. "And as the country has been raided by the two armies, it is doubtful whether they will be able to put in a crop to carry themselves and their families through the next winter without the aid of the horses that they are now riding, and we will arrange it this way."

The general showed manifest appreciation. "This will have the best possible effect upon the men," he said.

Soon the conditions of the surrender were completed. Papers were filled out. Signatures were required. Then it was over.

And on that day, a Palm Sunday, April 9, 1865, General Robert Edward Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia.

By Wallace Dabbs
Former Reporter and Editor.
Retired and living in Hancock County.

Devotional Page

PULLING TOGETHER IN TIME OF CRISIS BY GARY ANDREWS

If you pay attention to the media, there isn't a day that goes by that we are told of news affecting our society. In this period of time it happens to be the outbreak of the coronavirus. It is amazing how this disease has drastically changed our way of living for the next few weeks, months, etc. No one knows how long this pandemic is going to last.

This virus has brought the world to its knees, literally. Many schools and businesses are shut down and this has created a great number of employees being laid off their jobs. A lot of us are facing this situation with fear and panic.

Our greatest ally during this time, especially since we have been driven to our knees, is prayer. There have been times in the past that God has brought us through situations that we couldn't handle on our own. He gives us strength, wisdom, and foresight to what needs to be done, but it is in His time frame, not ours. We need to lean on Him and trust Him to bring us through this time of uncertainty and fear.

Even though we are worried about the future, why should we be? Even though this is a time of difficulty for many, it has brought

many people to work together. Even though this is an election year and our politicians are at each other with barbs and accusations, they are starting to work together to alleviate the problem. This is good for our country that people are working together.

As we are in this crisis mode our president, governors, mayors, and others have asked us to be very cautious about what we do and where we go. They have asked many us to stay quarantined in our homes to prevent the spread of the virus. The younger generation has been asked to check on the elderly. Go shopping for them and bring them food. This virus is very contagious and can be deadly, especially to our older generation.

This virus, even though it is affecting some of our loved ones with sickness, has brought many families closer again. Maybe this will be a time when we slow down and recognize each other and friends and count them as blessings instead of just being there. Family units may come together as they once did. This may create an opportunity for them to sit down and eat at the same table and really enjoy each other's company. They may actually talk among them-

selves and realize what they have been missing because of their lack of communication. Maybe we can put away our cell phones and electronic devices and listen to each other.

The parents will actually get more involved with what their children are doing in school since many of them are out of school and staying at home. Many parents keep up with the schoolwork their children are doing but many don't.

Even though we are frightened about the future we need to remember that God is in charge.

He tells us in Philippians 4:6-7; "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

For those of us that know Jesus as our Lord and Savior know that this too will past. We are in charge of what our actions will be, but we know that God is in control. Let's praise Him during this time and pray to Him that His will be done.

SUGGESTED DAILY BIBLE READINGS

SUNDAY –

James 1:12-27

MONDAY –

Isaiah 41:10-13

TUESDAY –

I Peter 5:5-11

WEDNESDAY –

Psalms 34:15-19

THURSDAY –

Romans 5:1-5

FRIDAY –

Job 1:13-22

SATURDAY –

Philippians 4:4-8

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First Assembly of God
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Bayou Talla Fellowship
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255-1118

Bayside Baptist
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Bayside Park • 467-0500

Emmanuel Baptist
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emmanuelbaptistsbsl.org

Catahoula Missionary Baptist Church
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Hancock Co.

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467-4005

First Baptist of DeLisle
25305 Cuevas DeLisle Rd.
Pass Christian 255-6550

First Baptist Church
Franklin & Hancock St.
Pearlington • 533-6030

First Missionary Baptist
Sycamore St. • Bay St. Louis

First Southern Baptist
Pearlington
533-7313

Grace Chapel
9208 Edwin Ladner Rd
Pass Christian 255-3255

Jacob's Well
29554 Vic Faye
Pass Christian 255-2555
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9 & 11 a.m., Sunday School/
Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Kittiwake Baptist Church
1410 East 2nd St.
Pass Christian • 452-4198

Lakeshore Baptist Church
6028 Lakeshore Rd.
Lakeshore • 469-0110

Little Providence Baptist Church
21150 Hwy. 43
S. Catahoula
255-2089
littleprovidence.org
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morning worship, 10 a.m.

Little Zion Baptist
510 Central Ave. • Waveland

Macedonia Baptist
400 Morris St. • Waveland

Morning Star Baptist
Sycamore & Watts
Bay St. Louis • 466-4849

Mt. Chapel Baptist
721 Herlihy St. • Waveland
466-9829

New Hope Missionary Baptist
Whites Rd. • Pearlington

New Life Baptist Church
6109 Road 312
Kiln • 493-1789

New Life Missionary Baptist Church
106 Turner St.
Bay St. Louis • 467-6871

Old Spanish Trail Baptist Church
5078 Hwy 90 W.
Bay St. Louis
Zack Cooper, pastor
228-324-8404
Worship: 10:30-11:30 a.m. &
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The Old Way By Grace Independent Baptist Church
6166 West Kemper Street
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520
Pastor Gordon Howard
243-0617

Shoreline Park Baptist
Waveland-Kiln Cut-off Rd.
Bay St. Louis • 467-9461

Victory Baptist
Hwy 603 • Kiln 255-1353

West Bay Community Church
100 Jeff Davis Avenue
Waveland
www.westbaycc.org

CATHOLIC
Annunciation Catholic
Kiln-DeLisle Rd. Kiln
255-1800

Our Lady of the Gulf
228 S. Beach Blvd
Bay St. Louis • 467-6509

Sacred Heart Catholic
14595 Vidalia Rd.
Pass Christian • 255-7453 or
255-7560

St. Ann Catholic
Clermont Harbor
Bay St. Louis • 467-5128

St. Clare Catholic
236 S. Beach Blvd., Waveland

St. Joseph Catholic
Hwy 604 Pearlington
467-5128

St. Rose de Lima
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St. Matthew The Apostle
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Church of Christ
17040 Cedar Dr., Pearlington
Minister Darrell Lanford
342-8030

CHURCH OF GOD
Bread of Life
2290 Kiln-DeLisle
Services 10 a.m. Sunday

House of Prayer Church of God
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Services: 11 a.m.
& 6 p.m. on Sun.,
7 p.m. on Wed. • 297-1886
Amazing Love Ministry Center

13296 Vidalia Rd
Pass Christian • 297-2143

EPISCOPAL
Christ Episcopal
912 S. Beach Blvd
Bay St. Louis 467-7757

St. Thomas Episcopal
5303 Diamondhead Cr.
Diamondhead 255-9213

Trinity Episcopal
Church St., Pass Christian

LUTHERAN
Lutheran Church of the Pines
309 Hwy 90, Waveland
467-6771

Grace Lutheran Church
19221 Pineville Rd.,
Long Beach
864-4248

METHODIST
Clermont Harbor United Methodist
Ioor St., Clermont Harbor
Pastor: Richard Handy
Service: 10:30 a.m.

Diamondhead United Methodist
5305 Noma Drive
Diamondhead • 255-6888

First United Methodist
526 E. Second St.
Pass Christian

Greater Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal
16223-3rd at 7th Ave.
Pearlington • 533-9976

Holmes Chapel United Methodist
Hwy 604 • Pearlington

Main Street United Methodist
162 Main St., Bay St. Louis
467-4538

Pearlington United Methodist
5210 Levee Ave., Pearlington

St. Mark's African Methodist Episcopal
741 Dufour Road
Waveland • 864-4739

St. Rock United Methodist Church
301 Herlihy Street
Waveland • 466-9185

Valena C. Jones United Methodist
248 Sycamore St.
Bay St. Louis

Waveland United Methodist
Vacation Ln., Waveland
467-8047 • Service: 10 a.m.
Rev. T. Manuel Johnson,
Pastor

MORMON
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
McLaurin Ave. Waveland
467-5009

NON-DENOMINATIONAL
Bible Fellowship Church
7030 Menge Ave.
Pass Christian
452-0038 • bfc4u.org

Calvary Chapel
Bay St. Louis • 105 Reese St.
Sunday, 9 & 11 a.m.
467-8375

Miracle Tabernacle
235 Old Spanish Trail,
Waveland • 467-3924
Pastor Frank Kendrick

Church of the Joshua Generation
27492 West Dubuissou Rd.
Pass Christian
Church Of The Living God Resurrection
1011 Maple Street

Waveland, MS 39576
466-5024

Church of the Lord Jesus Christ
6166 W. Kemper
Bayside Park

Central Bible Church
2002 Hwy 90 W
Bay St. Louis • 467-0529

Power House of Deliverance
1978 Washington
Bay St. Louis • 466-3841

Power of Prayer Praise & Worship Center
9012 Pine Dr. Waveland
467-7314

Revive My People Church
5224 Hwy. 90, Bay St. Louis

Southern Outreach Ministries
295 Hwy. 90, Suite 11
Bay St. Louis
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.;
Sunday Worship service, 11 a.m.;
Bible study, Wed., 7p.m.

Triumph The Church and Kingdom of God and Christ
456 Easterbrook
Bay St. Louis • 466-4951

Word of Faith Christian Fellowship
1399 Old Spanish Trail
Bay St. Louis • 467-4488

Zacchaeus Community Church
106 Turner Street
Bay St. Louis
Sunday, 10 a.m.
Pastor Robert Gales
493-9944

PENTECOSTAL
First United Pentecostal
Old Spanish Trail, Waveland
467-3575

Healing Hearts Church
295 Hwy. 90, Suite 12,
Bay St. Louis
Sunday School, 10 a.m.;
Sun. evening service, 6 p.m.
Bible study, Wed., 7 p.m.

New Life Church
4404 Leisure Time Dr.
Diamondhead • 216-4105
Sunday, 10 a.m

PRESBYTERIAN
Diamondhead Community Church
255-5556
a5301
Diamondhead Cr. Services at
8 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Sunday School, 9 a.m.

Old Town Presbyterian (USA)

114 Ulman Ave., 467-3921
Sun. service, 10 a.m.,
School, 9 a.m.

Lagniappe Presbyterian (PCA)
203 Central Ave.
Bay St. Louis • 234-7964
9:30am-worship

Long Beach Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.
125 East 2nd Street,
Long Beach
Rev. James E. Hightower
504-615-2898
Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Pineville Presbyterian
4476 Menge Ave.
Pass Christian • 216-4105
Sunday Worship at 11 a.m.;
Bible study at 10.
Rev. Paul Kendall

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coastglass@yahoo.com
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Edmond Fahey FUNERAL HOME
228-467-9031
110 Necaize Avenue,
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

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LAKESHOREBODYSHOP.COM
228.467.1535
5448 LOWER BAY ROAD | BAY ST. LOUIS, MS

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Mechanic on Duty
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mosstowingms.com

may contact the Building Department at the above address and/or at 228-222-4626. 04/01/20, 04/08/20

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
DIAMONDHEAD, MS

The City of Diamondhead represented by Ronald Jones, Building Official, has filed an application requesting a text amendment in accordance with the Zoning Ordinance Article 2.8 (Amendment (Rezoning Procedure)). The Case File Number is 202000095. The proposed text amendment would change the required off-street parking spaces in Table 8.1 for Restaurants without Drive-Thru; medical dental office and clinic; assisted living facility; offices; retail stores-indoor; health fitness club; and hotels. The current and proposed text language is stated below.

CURRENT TEXT LANGUAGE
8.2.2 Schedule of Off-Street Parking Spaces Required

Table 8.1 GENERAL OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS
Restaurants, without Drive-Thru 20 spaces per 1,000 sq. ft. of seating area; 2 spaces per 3 employees 1 space per business vehicle
Medical Dental office and clinic 7 spaces per 1000 sf
Assisted Living Facility 1 space per room or living unit
Offices 5 spaces per 1000 sf
Retail Stores-Indoor 5.5 spaces per 1000 sf of useable area
1 space per business vehicle
Health Fitness Club not addressed
Hotels 1 spaces per sleeping unit
Golf Cart, Motorcycle and Scooter not addressed

PROPOSED TEXT LANGUAGE
8.2.2 Schedule of Off Street Parking Spaces Required

Table 8.1 GENERAL OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS
Restaurants, without Drive Thru 1 space per 200 gfa
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Hotels 1 space per sleeping room plus 1 space for every 200 gfa for banquet, assembly, meeting or restaurant space
Golf Cart, Motorcycle and Scooter Up to 10 % of a development's parking requirement may be met by parking for these vehicles.

Amend 8.4.2 Parking Space Geometry A. ADD TEXT BELOW:

Parking spaces for golf carts, motorcycles and scooters shall not measure less than 5 feet wide by 10 feet long. In accordance with Article 2.8.2, the City Council shall have jurisdiction with respect to all Text Amendments and Rezoning. The Planning Commission shall review and submit a recommendation to the City Council on Text Amendments and Rezoning.

The Planning and Zoning Commission will consider this application at its next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. The public hearing will be held at Diamondhead City Hall in the Council Chambers at 5000 Diamondhead Circle in Diamondhead, MS 39525. Interested members of the public are invited to attend. Seating will be limited based on the Governor's Executive Order and following the CDC guidelines for social distancing due to the covid-19 virus. This meeting will also be live streamed for your convenience. If you have any questions or comments or would like to review the application, you may contact the Building Department at the above address and/or at 228-222-4626. 04/01/20, 04/08/20

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
DIAMONDHEAD, MS

Structures of Diamondhead represented by Jim Grotowski, owner, and Duke Levy, engineer, has submitted "the Sketch Plat for The Preserve Subdivision Phase 1" for review, consideration and approval. The Sketch Plat is a 23 lot development having lot sizes ranging from the smallest lot of 7,042 sf to the largest lot of 18,042 sf. The total number of acres is approximately 6.9 acres as part of a larger parcel of 28 acres. The current zoning of lots is R-2 medium Density single Family. The property is generally located adjacent to Beauv Subdivision Phase 1 on High Point Drive. The Planning Commission shall review and submit a recommendation to the City Council.

The Planning and Zoning Commission will consider this application at its next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. The public hearing will be held at Diamondhead City Hall in the Council Chambers at 5000 Diamondhead Circle in Diamondhead, MS 39525. Interested members of the public are invited to attend. Seating will be limited based on the Governor's Executive Order and following the CDC guidelines for social distancing due to the covid-19 virus. This meeting will also be live streamed for your convenience. If you have any questions or comments or would like to review the application, you may contact the Building Department at the above address and/or at 228-222-4626. 04/01/20, 04/08/20

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SUBSTITUTED TRUSTEE'S NOTICE
OF SALE

WHEREAS, on the 20th day of September 2013, Richard J. Rogers, executed a certain Deed of Trust to Preston J. Mauffray, Esq., Trustee in favor of KMB Construction, Inc., which Deed of Trust is of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hancock County, Mississippi in Book 2013 at Page 22987; and WHEREAS, KMB Construction, Inc. heretofore substituted LEWIE G. NEGROTTIO IV as Trustee in the place and in lieu of Preston J. Mauffray, Esq., by instrument dated March 18, 2020 and recorded on March 30, 2020 in Deed of Trust Book 2020 at Page 6909 in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hancock County, Mississippi, reference to which is hereby made; and WHEREAS, default having been made in the terms and conditions of said Deed of Trust and the entire debt secured thereby having been declared to be due and payable in accordance with the terms of said Deed of Trust, the legal holder of said indebtedness, having requested the undersigned Trustee to execute the trust and sell said land and property in accordance with the terms of said Deed of

Trust and for the purpose of raising the sums due thereunder, together with attorney's fees, trustee's fees and expense of sale, NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lewie G. Negrottio IV, Substituted Trustee in said Deed of Trust, will, during legal hours on Wednesday, the 22nd day of April 2020, at the front door of the County Courthouse of Hancock County, Mississippi, at Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, offer for sale at public outcry and sell, to the highest and best bidder for cash, the following described property situated in Hancock County, State of Mississippi, to-wit: Lots 20 & 37, Square 179, SHORELINE PARK SUBDIVISION, Unit 7, Addition 8, Hancock County, Mississippi, as per plat of said subdivision of record in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hancock County, Mississippi. Title to said property is believed to be good, but I will convey only such title as vested in me as Substituted Trustee.

LEWIE G. NEGROTTIO IV
133 Davis Ave. Ste. L
Pass Christian, MS 39571
Telephone: 228.222.4777
Publish: 04/01/20, 04/08/20, 04/15/20, 04/22/20

SECTION 001113
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

FROM: THE OWNER (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS OWNER):
A. Hancock County School District

B. Address: Hancock County School District Administration Building 17304 Highway 603 Kiln, MS, 39556

1.02 AND THE ENGINEER/ARCHITECT (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS ENGINEER/ARCHITECT):

A. Machado/Patano, PLLC & M/P Design Group, PLLC
B. Address: 918 Howard Avenue, Suite F Biloxi, MS 39530

228-388-1950 (Phone)
228-388-1971 (Fax)
www.mpeng.us (Web Site)
www.mpengplans.us (Plan Room)

1.03 TO: POTENTIAL BIDDERS

A. Your firm is invited to submit an offer under seal to Owner for construction of a building located at: Hancock County High School 7084 Stennis Airport Rd. Kiln, Mississippi 39556

B. Bids are due before 2:00 pm local standard time on Thursday, April 30, 2020.

C. Project Name: Hancock High School Bldg D Classroom Renovation

D. Project Number: 0239.19.008

E. Project Description: This project consists of interior demolition and the renovation of the existing restroom, hall, office and foyer spaces. The existing, (abandoned and non-usable) locker room restrooms and showers are to be demolished in their entirety. These spaces will be converted into large classrooms for the purpose of athletic training, and general course curriculum. Interior new work shall consist of new doors and frames, finishes, lighting and HVAC systems.

F. Bid Documents for a Stipulated Sum contract may be obtained from the website of the Architect at www.mpengplans.us upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit, by cash or check, in the amount indicated on the plan room site for one set delivered in electronic PDF format.

G. Bidders will be required to provide Bid security in the form of a Bid Bond of a sum no less than 5 percent of the Bid Amount or a certified check for a sum no less than 5 percent of the Bid Amount.

H. Refer to other bidding requirements described in Document 002113 - Instructions to Bidders and Document 003100 - Available Project Information.

I. Submit your offer on the Bid Form provided. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate.

J. If Bids are mailed or hand-delivered, then they must be contained in a sealed envelope marked on the outside with the project name. They must be on file as received or delivered by the time stated above to the address of the Owner stated above. Do not deliver Bids to the project address or the Architect's address.

K. Electronic Bid Submission will be accepted on this project. Online bids can be placed on the website of the Architect at www.mpengplans.us. If Bids are electronically submitted, then a title page containing the same information as would occur on the front of a sealed envelope must be included and must be clearly indicated as such in the file name.

L. Bids in excess of \$50,000.00 must be marked on the outside of the envelope with the contractor's Mississippi certificate of responsibility number as issued by the Mississippi Board of Contractors.

M. Your offer will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

N. The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers.

END OF SECTION
04/01/20, 04/08/20

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
DIAMONDHEAD, MS

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
DIAMONDHEAD, MS

OneDiamondhead, LLC has filed an application requesting a map amendment (Rezoning) in accordance with the Zoning Ordinance Article 2.8 (Amendment (Rezoning Procedure)). The Case File Number is 2020. OneDiamondhead, LLC desires to change the current zoning from R-1 (Low Density Single Family) to R-2 (Median Density Single Family) in part. The majority of the property is already zoned R-2. The tax parcel number is 067L-0-35-012.000 in part. The purpose of this map amendment is to have the same zoning district classification for a proposed 11 lot subdivision on a 5.91 acre tract of land. Currently part of the proposed subdivision is zoned R-1 and R-2.

The parcel of property is generally described as being bounded by the 5th, 6th, 7th 13th and 14th fairways of the Cardinal golf course. It is also east of and adjacent to Diamondhead Drive West. The parcel of property is legally described as 39.29 Acre-Legal Description Beginning at a 1/2" Rebar Found at the Southern Corner common to Lot 1, Block 13, Unit 11, Phase 2 of Diamondhead Subdivision and Lot 5, Block 3, Unit 6, Phase 2 of Diamondhead Subdivision; thence along the boundary of Unit 6, Phase 2 for the following six courses: North 73 degrees 51 minutes 37 seconds East 183.89 feet to a 5/8" Rebar Set with Cap; thence North 84 degrees 13 minutes 44 seconds East 519.64 feet to a 5/8" Rebar Set with Cap; thence North 52 degrees 37 minutes 34 seconds East 324.25 feet to a 5/8" Rebar Set with Cap; thence North 33 degrees 27 minutes 08 seconds East 1199.12 feet to a 5/8" Rebar Set with Cap; thence North 51 degrees 36 minutes 56 seconds East 71.05 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence North 39 degrees 20 minutes 43 seconds West 125.00 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found on the South margin of Diamondhead Drive West; thence along said margin, North 50 degrees 36 minutes 42 seconds East 484.90 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence leaving said road margin, South 39 degrees 13 minutes 41 seconds East 280.36 feet to a 5/8" Rebar Set with Cap; thence South 27 degrees 33 minutes 15 seconds West 125.53 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence South 15 degrees 29 minutes 56 seconds West 696.74 feet to a 5/8" Rebar Set with Cap; thence South 81 degrees 46 minutes 15 seconds East 124.09 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence South 33 degrees 28 minutes 57 seconds East 85.27 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence South 00 degrees 57 minutes 39 seconds East 199.46 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence South 32 degrees 04 minutes 44 seconds East 392.48 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence South 68 degrees 51 minutes 35 seconds West 427.81 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence North 86 degrees 57 minutes 36 seconds West 80.44 feet to a 5/8" Rebar Set with Cap; thence North 31 degrees 40 minutes 26 seconds West 153.06 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence North 69 degrees 08 minutes 28 seconds West 114.90 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence North 37 degrees 31 minutes 20 seconds West 121.81 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence North 74 degrees 36 minutes 02 seconds West 54.93 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence South 41 degrees 13 minutes 19 seconds West 77.46 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence South 08 degrees 13 minutes 49 seconds East 63.70 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence South 79 degrees 55 minutes 34 seconds West 116.58 feet to a 5/8" Rebar Set with Cap; thence South 44 degrees 00 minutes 04 seconds West 202.23 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence South 75 degrees 39 minutes 54 seconds West 210.44 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence South 56 degrees 22 minutes 27 seconds West 132.25 feet to a 5/8" Rebar Set with Cap; thence South 62 degrees 27 minutes 53 seconds West 50.90 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence South 79 degrees 16 minutes 26 seconds West 65.34 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence South 51 degrees 30 minutes 41 seconds West 89.96 feet to a 5/8" Rebar Set with Cap; thence South 65 degrees 10 minutes 12 seconds West 74.36 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence South 82 degrees 26 minutes 03 seconds West 53.81 feet to a 5/8" Rebar Set with Cap; thence South 39 degrees 58 minutes 19 seconds West 102.07 feet to a 5/8" Rebar Set with Cap; thence South 53 degrees 06 minutes 34 seconds West 53.16 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence South 73 degrees 44 minutes 57 seconds West 62.20 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence South 50 degrees 32 minutes 03 seconds West 209.77 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence South 58 degrees 02 minutes 33 seconds West 256.20 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence North 70 degrees 17 minutes 08 seconds West 73.73 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence North 43 degrees 09 minutes 59 seconds West 61.34 feet to a 5/8" Rebar Set with Cap; thence North 17 degrees 13 minutes 33 seconds West 132.25 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence North 16 degrees 54 minutes 19 seconds East 70.19 feet to a 5/8" Rebar Set with Cap; thence North 39 degrees 56 minutes 05 seconds East 75.16 feet to a 5/8" Rebar Set with Cap; thence North 01 degrees 16 minutes 36 seconds West 37.85 feet to a 5/8" Rebar Set with Cap; thence North 24 degrees 47 minutes 10 seconds East 54.36 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence North 00 degrees 58 minutes 02 seconds West 86.20 feet to a 5/8" Rebar Set with Cap; thence North 52 degrees 40 minutes 31 seconds West 150.15 feet to a 1/2" Rebar Found; thence North 48 degrees 33 minutes 50 seconds East 25.73 feet to a 5/8" Rebar Set with Cap; thence North 60 degrees 50 minutes 14 seconds East 156.43 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 39.29 acres, more or less, and being located in Section 35, Township 7 South, Range 14 West, Hancock County, Mississippi. The Basis of Bearings is the Mississippi State Plane Coordinate System, NAD 83, MS East Zone.

In accordance with Article 2.8.2, the City Council shall have jurisdiction with respect to all Text Amendments and Rezoning. The Planning Commission shall review and submit a recommendation to the City Council on Text Amendments and Rezoning.

The Planning and Zoning Commission will consider this application at its next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 28,

2020 at 6:00 p.m. The public hearing will be held at Diamondhead City Hall in the Council Chambers at 5000 Diamondhead Circle in Diamondhead, MS 39525. Seating will be limited based on the Governor's Executive Order and following the CDC guidelines for social distancing due to the covid-19 virus. This meeting will also be live streamed for your convenience. If you have any questions or comments or would like to review the application, you may contact the Building Department at the above address and/or at 228-222-4626. 04/01/20, 04/08/20

136 Automobile

NOTICE
OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

CORVETTES, LLC
20596 HIGHWAY 43 SOUTH
PICAYUNE, MS 39466
228-332-7777
Monday-Friday 8:00 AM-5:00 PM
Saturday 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

The following vehicles will be sold ON 4/10/2020 • TIME: 9:00 AM
Location of Sale: 20596 Hwy. 43, Picayune, MS 39466

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2006 HONDA CIVIC
VIN# 2HGFG12646H519121

2007 FORD F150
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2010 PONTIAC VIBE
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03-18, 03-25, 04-01-20

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Moss Towing
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bay saint louis ms 39520
228-467-5227

1985 GMC C15
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1999 CHEVROLET SC1
VIN# 2GCEC19T1X1161066

2000 CHEVROLET Silverado 1500
VIN# 1GCEC14T9Y2Z71136

2002 FORD TSE
VIN# 1FAHP53U22A213996

2004 FORD F150
VIN# 1FTPX12524NC69103

2005 DODGE DURANGO
VIN# 1D4HD48N05F550434

2008 FORD Escape
VIN# 1FMCU03288KA20150

2016 FREIGHTLINER
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04/01, 04/08, 04/15/2020

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The following vehicles will be sold on 4/27/2020 at 10:00 a.m. 30 days after the first publication:

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2002 HONDA USE
VIN# JHMC56772C026475

2011 MERCEDES C
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VIN# JN8AZ1MU9EW414027

1998 VOLVO S70
VIN# YV1L55579W2554932

2014 FORD F150
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3/25/2020, 4/1/2020

MDMR accepting commercial fishing license renewals via mail

SEA COAST ECHO

In order to comply with Governor Reeve's Executive Order 1463 dated March 24, 2020, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources will not be issuing commercial licenses to in-person applicants until April 17, 2020.

In the event, the Governor issues a subsequent Order extending the emergency provisions beyond April 17, 2020, the public will be advised accordingly.

Applicants may continue to obtain commercial licenses by mailing a copy of both the boat registration and the boat owner's driver's license to the MDMR at 1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, MS 39530.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at dmr.ms.gov.

• ASSISTANCE

Continued

from Page 6

Members seeking assistance paying their electric bills for their homes or businesses should contact Catholic Charities at 855-847-0555. Funds are available to qualifying Coast Electric members in Hancock, Harrison and Pearl River counties.

"It is out of concern for and commitment to our members and business communities that we serve that we come together to help those in need keep their businesses operational, a roof over their heads and power to their homes and families," said Janell Nolan, Coast Electric's Director of Community Development.

In the past 15 months, the Operation Round Up program has put almost half a million dollars into Hancock, Harrison and Pearl River counties through community grants. "We are proud of the work we've done so far and, at this time, when our community needs us the most, the

best thing we can do is to put these funds into the hands of the people who are feeling the financial impact of this virus," said Coast Electric President and CEO Ron Barnes. "This is what cooperatives like Coast Electric and programs like Operation Round Up are all about – people in our community coming together to help one another."

Coast Electric members who are able and would like to make additional donations to Operation Round Up during this event can contact Coast Electric member service representatives at 877-769-2372 to let them know they want to give additional funds above and beyond their monthly round up donation to help their friends and neighbors in need.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, Coast Electric is guided by a set of seven principles, one of which is showing concern for the community. To learn more about Coast Electric's community efforts, including Operation Round Up, visit www.coastepa.com/my-community.



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• GEMS
Continued
from Page 1

times long gone, of life accelerated, when maturity came at a younger age.

“I was born in Thibodaux, the hometown of Nicholls State, what we call ‘Harvard on the Bayou,’” Brother Lee said. “There were only 11 classes in school in those days and so I graduated at sixteen, went to Loyola for a year, and at seventeen I entered the Brothers of the Sacred Heart in Metuchen, New Jersey. I long admired the brothers who taught me. They were really outstanding men, so I said, ‘I’m going to give it a try.’”

Brother Lee talks through the early years as fast as autumn leaves falling in a strong wind. From New Jersey to Mobile for classes; teaching at St. Luke’s in the Bronx in 1949; teaching sixth grade at St. Stanislaus in 1950; Alexandria, La as football, basketball, and baseball coach; teacher, and athletic director; back to Metuchen, and then to a prestigious assignment, Rome.

The initial awe of Rome was tempered somewhat with a humorous realization of the standing of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart compared to the Jesuits.

“You can tell how influential a religious order is by the proximity of their Generalate to the Vatican,” Brother Lee said. “The Jesuits are across the street. It took me 55 minutes to walk from our Generalate to get to St. Peter’s! But, I enjoyed the spiritual renewal year and I visited all over.”

Upon returning to the U.S., Brother Lee was assigned to Daphne, Alabama for five years as the director of young men preparing to become brothers.

“It was a pleasure working with them because these were highly

motivated young men,” as evidenced by their success,” he said. “One became the superior general, one an assistant general, and all of them became provincials.”

Then it was on to three years at St. Aloysius, adjacent to the French Quarter, before finally arriving back at St. Stanislaus in 1966, this time as principal for 10 years. Soon after assuming the position of principal, Brother Lee learned there were only two black students registered, a fact he was determined to change. St. Augustine Seminary was running a high school for only thirty two students, all black as per the school’s charter. Brother Lee saw an opportunity to benefit both religious orders.

“I went to the rector of the seminary, and said, ‘I have a deal to offer you. I’ll take all of your seminarians at Stanislaus for free if you also send four teachers,’” Brother Lee said. “Two of those teachers became bishops, Terry Steib and Lenny Olivier. So, the Society of the Divine Word helped us greatly because we were two years ahead of integrating here in Bay St. Louis.”

Brother Lee was also presiding over the school when Hurricane Camille hit.

“I spent that Sunday taping up windows in the building that faced the water. Camille knocked those windows in,” he said.

The damage to the school was so extensive that reopening for that school year was in doubt, however briefly, until the day after the storm.

“A contractor had just completed the work of enlarging Brother Martin School in New Orleans on Friday. Camille hit Sunday evening. On Monday afternoon, the contractor was here with our provincial,” Brother Lee said. “They put us together again, and we opened school 32 days after the storm. Now, some of our alumni were in favor of us repairing

that building, but they didn’t have to teach in it. It was not air conditioned or centrally heated. I was in favor of replacing that building. It was time. We had two contractors, one of whom was in charge of the architectural program at Tulane. We traveled and looked at different schools, good schools, around the country in planning this school. So, this school incorporated ideas from some of the best schools.”

The city utilities also upgraded through the years.

“When I first came we had a lot of boarders,” Brother Lee said. “When it came to show-er time, we would call the water department and they would turn up the water pressure so we would have enough water for showers. That was unique.”

After ten years of being principal, Brother Lee was elected provincial in charge of placing brothers to schools and missions.

“As provincial I assigned 132 brothers to five schools in the US and to our missions in Uganda, Lesotho, South Africa, Germany, and England,” he said. “I also went to Rome three times to our Generalate. So, I did a lot of traveling in those six years because I met with every brother I assigned.”

Brother Lee was then asked to be a vocation director, a harder job than it sounds.

“My plan was to go to college campuses, to the Catholic Student Union, and talk about church ministry, priesthood, brotherhood, and sisterhood. I felt that my audience, if not hostile, would at least be indifferent,” Brother Lee said. “I needed an ice breaker. So, in 1982, I learned magic. When I went to visit the college campuses, they said, ‘Oh, hi, Brother Lee. Come on in. Show us some magic.’”

Brother Lee said he started a magic club at St. Stanislaus 32-years

ago and 22-years ago at McGill-Toolen High School in Mobile.

“Students in the club come with me and we do shows at the Little Sisters of the Poor Residence, McDonald House, several low income apartments, and nursing homes,” Brother Lee said. “I get teenagers to give up a Saturday afternoon to come with me and entertain the elderly, the needy, and the poor. I’m so blessed.”

Brother Lee’s passions of guiding youth and performing magic are a perfect match with Camp Stanislaus. He began working at the summer camp in 1951 and has served a total of 48 years in positions such as head counselor, rifle range instructor, bus driver, water ski instructor, and later as Camp Magician.

“Begin to set goals in life in high school. De-

termine what gifts you have that you would be happy using either in the business world, or reaching out to help others as a brother or sister,” Brother Lee said. “Keep your options open. The rewards that Jesus gives may not be great in this world, but they’re out of this world.”

Brother Lee revels in spreading joy through magic, a much different persona than the stern disciplinarian described earlier. Brother Lee explained the role he played as, “Well, it served a purpose. It was not permanent.”

Neither was corporal punishment. Whippings with a leather strap are now only stories old alumni tell young St. Stanislaus students. Brother Lee speaks frankly of those days.

“I had students say thank you (after a whipping),” he said. “They

knew that was a possible consequence but now the consequences have changed. Hopefully, they’re still productive. But it was time to move away from corporal punishment.”

No matter how former students remember Brother Lee; the personal mentor, the vocation counselor, the principal, the magician, or any of the other numerous roles he’s assumed, every student who came into contact with him most probably remembers him.

“I have given witness to about 25,000 young people as to who I am. I’m still at it,” Brother Lee said.

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Blanchard ranked #13 in ESPN’s top 150 players from first 150 years

BY JOSEPH W. GEX, II
STAFF WRITER

This is the first of three articles on the top 150 players of college football as released by ESPN.

One of the area’s greatest gridiron legends was named to ESPN’s top 150 players from college football’s first 150 years which was released on Thursday, March 19th.

The late Col. Felix A. “Doc” Blanchard, Jr., was ranked #13 in ESPN’s field of college football’s greatest 150 players in the first sesquicentennial of the great game. Blanchard is a 1942 graduate of Saint Stanislaus.

He was born on December 11, 1924, in McColl, South Carolina, to Dr. Felix A. Blanchard and his wife, Mary. He got his nickname “Little Doc” as he made house calls with his father.

He later moved to Bishopville, SC, where he learned the game of football first from his father. The elder Blanchard graduated from SSC in 1915 and later played fullback at Wake Forest University and Tulane University where he went to medical school. It was rumored that a football was placed in the crib with Doc when he was an infant to give him something to hold while he slept. As he grew, his physical prowess made Doc a quick study at the sport.

The elder Blanchard encouraged his son’s athletic pursuits. At age 13, Doc was put on a train from South Carolina to Bay St. Louis to attend Saint Stanislaus where his father graduated. The motive was to get his academics on the straight and narrow under the guidance of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart but athletics remained his focus. He starred in all sports but excelled in football. He started as a freshman in 1938 and helped lead SSC to an undefeated season, a Gulf Coast Championship and a berth in the Toy Bowl. That season he was teammates with Celestin J. “Pete” Taylor who would go on to become the head baseball coach and athletic director at the University of Southern Mississippi. The baseball park at USM is named in Taylor’s memory and he has since been inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame.

As Doc grew into his frame, his exploits on the field grew to legendary status. Doc grew to stand 6’1” and weighed 210-lbs which was bigger than any lineman and, yet, he could run faster than anyone else on the field and possessed the strength of a bull ox.

In 1941 he led the Rocks to an undefeated Gulf Coast Championship and another berth in the Toy Bowl. He had

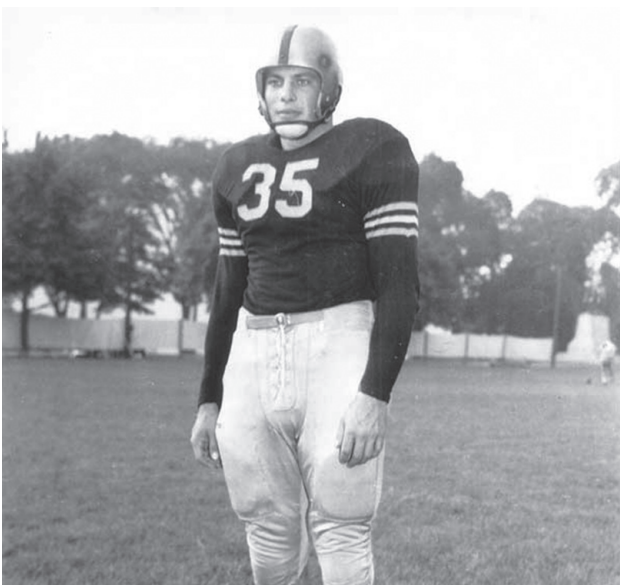


Photo courtesy of Saint Stanislaus
Doc Blanchard in uniform while at West Point.

his choice of universities to attend and chose to sign with the University of North Carolina which was coached by Jim Tatum, his mother’s first cousin.

Freshmen were not allowed to play on the varsity teams in those days and he ended up playing just one season for the Tar Heels.

In the spring of 1943, with America’s involvement in World War II growing, Blanchard felt what many his age felt which was an urge to serve. He volunteered and was trained as a tail gunner in the Army Air Corps which would later become the United States Air Force. He was offered the chance to take an appointment to the United States Military Academy and he entered West Point in the summer of 1944.

At Army, Doc played for Red Blaik and what he accomplished was nothing short of extraordinary. He became a consensus three-time first team All-American that led the cadets to a three-year record of 27-0-1 and three consecutive national championships. During that time frame, Army averaged 56 points per game while holding opponents to an NCAA record average of 3.9 points per game.

In 1944, Blanchard formed one-half of the greatest backfield in football history. He became ‘Mr. Inside’ while Glenn Davis was ‘Mr. Outside’ as termed by New York Sun columnist George Trevor.

After a 59-0 rout of Notre Dame in 1944, Irish head coach Ed McKeever famously quoted, “I’ve just seen Superman in the flesh. He wears No. 35 and goes by the name of Blanchard.”

Coach Blaik described Blanchard in his 1960 biography, “Doc Blanchard was the best-built athlete I ever saw: six feet one and 208 pounds at his peak, not a suspicion of fat on him, with a slim waist, Atlas shoulders, colossal legs. He was a terrific tackler, great blocker, could catch, pass, punt and kickoff exceptionally well. He had great instinctive football sense, supreme confidence and deep pride.”

In 1945, Blanchard had his best season as a collegian. He rushed

for 718 yards with an astonishing average of 7.1 yards per carry and scored 19 touchdowns. He won the Heisman Trophy after Army’s 9-0 season and was the first underclassman to win football’s highest award.

He also won the Sullivan Award given to the nation’s top amateur athlete and was the first football player to claim the award. He completed the trifecta claiming the Maxwell Award which is given to the nation’s best football player. It was the first and only time in athletic history that the same person won all three awards in the same year.

His senior season at Army in 1946 did not go the way he envisioned. He tore several ligaments in his left knee in the first game but missed just three games. He took the field several times for Army in key situations to deliver. He rushed for 613 yards and scored 10 touchdowns including a 92-yard kickoff return against Columbia after the injury.

His teammate, Davis, won the Heisman in 1946 and Blanchard was third.

His 1,666 rushing yards still rank in the top 20 at Army while his 28 rushing touchdowns are in the top eight.

Blanchard was a full-back, kicker, punter, and linebacker on the field but in the spring he transitioned to the track. There, he was a sub 10-second sprinter in the 100-yard dash and threw the shotput. He was the NCAA indoor and outdoor champion in the shot put in 1945 with 54’ throw of the 16-lb ball.

Blanchard graduated from Army in the spring of 1947. He was drafted #3 overall by the Pittsburgh Steelers in the NFL Draft but the Army did not allow him to play professionally. He completed his three-year tour of duty and could have pursued professional football at that time. However, he chose to remain in the military as a pilot for the Air Force. The football career of perhaps the greatest full-back on any level was over as he chose to serve his country with honor over playing the sport that was essentially created for him.

His military career was a decorated one as he flew 113 missions

over Korea and Vietnam.

In 1959, Doc was inducted to the College Football Hall of Fame. He has since been inducted into the West Point Hall of Fame, Southern College Sports Hall of Fame, Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, Saint Stanislaus College Hall of Fame and the Great Wall of Rocks for Athletics.

In 1971, Doc retired from the military with the rank of Colonel.

In 1989, he donated all three trophies - Heisman, Maxwell, and Sullivan - to Saint Stanislaus with “...the hope that it will inspire young men of character to do the extra that it takes to become successful in life.” The three awards along with several photographs reside in the main school building for all to see.

Blanchard passed away at the age of 84 on April 19, 2009. Prior to his passing, Army had announced they were retiring his No. 35 jersey during the then-upcoming 2009 season. Only four players have their jerseys retired at Army - Blanchard, 1946 Heisman Trophy winner Glenn Davis, 1958 Heisman Trophy winner Pete Dawkins and Blanchard teammate OL Joe Steffy. It was less than eight months later on December 5, 2009, SSC won its first and only state championship in football. SSC had previously retired Blanchard’s #61 jersey at the school in October 1997. It remains the only retired jersey, regardless of sport, retired by the school.

At the announcement of Blanchard’s death, Joe Steffy stated at an interview with Sal Interdonato, “Doc once told me, ‘The worst thing a man can do is make himself a celebrity, his life is ruined from then on.’”

Blanchard’s humility was a lifelong trait. After his 1945 Heisman Trophy presentation, he went back to Bishopville, to be honored by his hometown. Following the introduction, the microphone was handed to Doc and he responded with one sentence, “Football players are like girls, they should be seen, not heard.”

Steffy stated it best at that interview, “Coaches will always be looking for another Blanchard. But, I don’t believe they will find it.”

In his hometown of Bishopville, they have not forgotten Doc

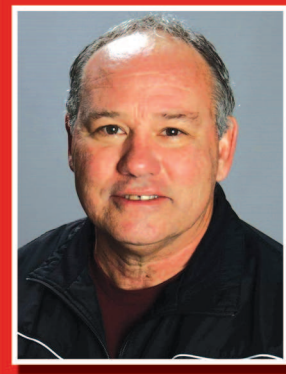
Blanchard. The same can be said of Bay St. Louis. In Bishopville, the town erected three bronze statues that depict Blanchard as a young boy, an Army football player, and a member of the military. Beneath one of the statues it reads, “We point with pride to young Doc Blanchard - one of the greatest names in football - our hometown boy who met success with modesty - a boy who fit perfectly into the pattern laid down by his dad. With memory of your father, with honor to your mother, Doc Blanchard, we salute you.”



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GAMES

ON TAP THIS WEEK

NOTE:

All MHSAA games and practices for Athletics and Fine Arts have been suspended through April 17th and until further notice. The MHSAA followed the Governor’s order on March 20th to close all public schools until April 17th. The MHSAA State Archery Championships, Mississippi Choral Arts Festival and State Choral Performance Assessments, and the MHSAA Concert Band Championships have been canceled and will not be made up due to scheduling and logistical issues. Spring football has also been canceled for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. Further information will be released as it is announced.